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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE decisions of the Supreme Court are supposed to be kept most strictly secret until they are formally published from the bench. Yet it is necessary to repose confidence in subordinates to some extent; and the excited interest as to the decision in the income tax case created a condition of things unfavorable to entire secrecy. An outline of the decision reached a Western paper some days ahead, and was telegraphed over the country. The Washington correspondent of that paper may expect to answer some awkward questions before he is much older, or to learn the meaning of contempt of court.

While the Supreme Court has decided many important matters in its time, none ever affected so much wealth or so large a body

of people of influence as this. If the Court had been purchasable, it would have been bought to declare that the tax is one of those forbidden by the Constitution. In the entire absence of monetary inducements, there was a pressure of feeling and opinion adverse to the law, which could not but affect the minds of the judges. Not one of them but must have known that the whole circle of his acquaintances would welcome an adverse decision as a tribute to the rights of property and the vested interests of the well-to-do classes. The organs of these classes left no room for doubt on this subject, and the freest expression of hostile comment from men of all parties seconded the newspapers.

The Court, however, has not yielded to this or any other adverse influence, however individual justices have been affected by it. It has, indeed, and with good reason, ruled against two features of the bill, but it has left the rest intact, so that an income tax is to be a part of our fiscal policy for two or three years at least. It will not do, either, to predict that it will be repealed as soon as a Republican President is elected. This, like the silver question, is one of the problems which that party will need to approach with caution. Even Mr. Gladstone, in 1874, came to grief on a proposal to repeal the English income tax, as he found that the Liberals of the working classes were convinced that it was an equitable tax, and that its repeal meant the increase of their own burdens.

THAT the income tax will be needed to make both ends meet is shown by the latest Treasury statistics. During the first seven months of the fiscal year the excess of expenditures over receipts has been \$55,000,000, and there is no likelihood that there will be an important increase of revenue from any other quarter. It is true that the financial prophets continue to predict "a general revival in commercial prosperity," which will put up prices, increase imports, and thus add to the volume of revenue. If they have any better reason for this expectation than their own wishes, they have withheld them from the public. It is true that the demand for our wheat has increased very suddenly and considerably, the foreign stock having been as good as exhausted. It is many years since our own home supply ran so low. Last year at this time there were 10,750,000 bushels in store at tidewater, or traveling thither by canal and otherwise. This year the amount is but 6,750,000. Red wheat in particular has fallen to about a third of what it was. Under such conditions, and with a lively European demand, prices should rule as high as in 1880. But we are practically giving wheat away to Europe, when we sell it at the present prices. The amount thus transferred to our credit avails to meet a fraction of our interest account due to Europe, but gives us no means to purchase largely of European commodities; and just at present we are not in the mood to make large purchases on credit. So much the gold standard has done for our commerce.

THE net increase of our money in circulation increased in March by \$9,649,867, the Treasury experts say. This gain of less than \$10,000,000 was effected by a gold loan of \$62,400,000.

What became of the rest? And what has been the decrease since Mr. Cleveland came into power, with the policy of "No Silver" in his right hand, and "No Protection" in his left?

Our experts go on to tell us how much money is circulating at present. It is difficult to say how they found out. They have nothing but guesswork to go upon, as regards the volume of gold and silver coin actually current, and they construe it generously when they bring the total up to \$27.79 a head for 69,505,000 people. But even these figures, exaggerated as they are, fall much below the estimated circulation of more than one European country, where the people are not suffering from a surplus. And with our credit and banking system developed effectively over but a small part of our area, and embracing only a minority of our population, we have far greater need of paper and coin than have European countries of the higher grade.

THE recent rise in the value of silver had nothing as a basis but a vague expectation with regard to the demand for it in paying the Chinese war indemnity, and the subsequent fall of the metal was inevitable. Yet this movement of the silver market points to two incontrovertible facts. The first is that any considerable demand must put up the price rapidly. If a silver trust could take the matter in hand, and meet the existing demand for silver in the arts by a refusal to sell at less than the ratio of our present coinage, the silver-using countries would be obliged to pay that price for the great bulk they use yearly. Why should not the nation, which has a great interest in silver, both directly as the chief silver-producing country, and indirectly through the harm we suffer from the single gold standard, constitute itself a silver trust for this purpose? Very quickly we could force the countries of Western Europe to come to terms with us as to the relation of silver to gold.

It also points to the fact that an indefinitely great market for silver awaits us among the peoples of Eastern Asia and other parts of the Old World. Unfortunately the country most occupied in pushing its trade upon those countries has been the most hostile to the use of silver, and has no interest in the production of that metal. It is mined nowhere within the British Empire in large quantities. If England had pushed silver as she has pushed her cottons and her hardwares, our richest mines would have been unable to meet the demand for the metal, for use both in coin and in ornament. Instead of that, by plunging India into a gold debt to London money-lenders, she has actually choked the channel by which silver made its way to the East, and the channel will continue choked until India declares herself bankrupt, or England returns to bimetalism. Fortunately one or other result cannot be far off.

SECRETARY GRESHAM made a fair show of vigor in dealing with Spain in the Allianca case; but the policy of the State Department does not continue to inspire the country with confidence in his diplomacy. It is not so much any particular failure in his duty as the tone of his communications with representatives of foreign powers and the minimizing tendency of the "inspired" dispatches from Washington which chill public feeling. Neither he nor Mr. Cleveland show the slightest sense of any duty to our American neighbors beyond what the letter of our engagements require. When they take up the Nicaraguan or the Venezuelan questions they at once begin to talk of the extent of "our interests" in those countries, as though nothing could be expected of us but to keep guard over American residents and their property. They do not seem to know the difference between an Ambassador and a Consul. This was just Mr. Bayard's weakness in his time, and his presence at the Court of St. James and his evident susceptibility to the blandishments of Downing Street, are an added element of danger and distrust. Neither he nor his superior nor his successor in the State Department has ever risen to the John Quincy Adams level of

American feeling which prompted the Monroe doctrine. They accept that doctrine, indeed, as a rather disagreeable heritage from the past; but they never would have originated it. It is notable also how the newspapers which most belaud their conduct of our affairs are constantly belittling that great diplomatic deliverance, so as to make it mean as little as possible. This is not the tone which we owe to our neighbors to take in matters where they look to us for our emphatically friendly influence in their behalf. It is not the policy which will put us at the head of an American State system.

IN Nicaragua it would be well if our State Department were to realize how great an interest we have at stake, and make our British neighbors know the fact. The canal now in process of construction will be virtually a part of the coast line of the United States. It will be the chief line of commerce between the millions on our Pacific coast and the rest of the nation. Yet the moment it is completed England will renew her claim to a joint control of the work. She will plead the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850, as giving her this right, although, as Mr. Blaine showed in 1881, she forfeited the right to plead that treaty by violating its pledge that she would not "occupy, fortify or colonize any part of Central America." When this contention arises it will be of the first importance to us to stand well with the people and government of Nicaragua. By no policy can we better secure this than by a hearty friendliness in their diplomatic troubles. It is not necessary to encourage them in injustice, or to start them in a career of diplomatic audacity, which would keep them in constant hot water. Where British subjects have been wronged, they should be compensated. But the insolent demand of £15,000 of smart-money for expelling a British spy, who held no avowed rank in the diplomatic service, should have been resented sharply, as should also the refusal to accept the citizen of any American republic as an arbitrator. Mr. Gresham, however, is not likely to trouble his "Dear Sir Julian" with these small matters.

THE measures necessary for the reform of the city government of New York are not unlikely to suffer defeat in the New York Legislature. Mayor Strong will not accept the dictation of Mr. Platt in the selection of his subordinates. He even appoints a fair share of honest Democrats to places of importance, recognizing the fact that Democratic votes helped so largely to overturn Tammany and elect himself to the Mayorship. So Mr. Platt's friends at Albany join hands with the Tammany Democrats to prevent the passage of the laws needed to effect that reform. The latter have the most direct interests in keeping their friends in office. The former sacrificed the good government of a great city, and even the future of their own party, to the personal spites and ambitions of an unscrupulous party leader. This is a fresh illustration of the fact that no man cares less for a party than does its boss. He, indeed, may have begun by being a genuine and hearty party man. But mere party feeling, divorced from zeal for the larger welfare of the community, soon narrows to zeal for a mere faction in the party, and finally shrinks to the basest selfishness. So the records of the Republican party have shown in other States than New York.

THERE is a measure before the Pennsylvania Legislature to grant a retiring pension to judges who have served a long period on the bench. It not unnaturally excites opposition as being out of the usual line of State action in the matter, although it can plead the precedent set by both our own national government and those of Europe. It is said that it is better to pay fair salaries to the judges when they are in service and be done with them when they retire. But the salaries now paid, while sufficient for a judge's support and even to enable him to save something, are not such as to make the bench a desirable place to lawyers of

more than average ability, unless they are possessed of independent means. At the time when those salaries were fixed they represented probably more than the average earnings of lawyers in good practice. With the growth of corporation business and the rise of legal charges they have long ceased to do so. It is, indeed, neither possible nor even desirable to level up the salaries of the judges until they stand in the old relation to legal earnings. It is, however, both desirable and possible to make the office more attractive by assurance of a competence to retiring judges, and this we must do unless we are willing to see the bench occupied by men of less ability and learning than the leaders of the bar.

THE Supreme Court of Illinois has pronounced a decision that the eight-hour law passed by the State is unconstitutional, as it interferes with freedom of contract between employers and workingmen, a thing which the Court holds to be permissible only where this is necessary for sanitary reasons. As the decision is not reported as alleging anything specific from the State Constitution, we presume this really amounts to a ruling that the State Legislature had exceeded its constitutional powers in passing such a law. It therefore rests on the same ground as that of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, which set aside the law to forbid the payment of wages by "store orders." It is the more curious as all the leading States of the Union already have laws on their statute books which limit a day's labor to ten hours, to say nothing of the laws which limit it to six days of the week. Does the Court hold that it cannot be injurious to health to work ten hours at any employment, but is so to work eleven? If so, it has a good deal of medical authority against its opinion. It is true that in occupations which furnish some variety of activity a man or woman may work ten, twelve or even more hours of the day without receiving any injury. This is true of farmwork, household labor and the like occupations. But where the work is entirely monotonous, as in mines, factories and workshops generally, the case is different. In the Elgin Watch Factory, within the Court's jurisdiction, hundreds of people are employed at work which offers not the least variety from year's end to year's end. Many of them have nothing to do but to file the notch in the head of a screw of a particular size, or rather to attend to a machine which does this. Such work cannot but be wearing on the nervous system, as is the tending to looms in a factory. Whatever may be the economic reasons against the law, it cannot be said that there are no medical reasons in its favor. The decision smacks of the prejudice of the lawyer rather than the intelligence of the physician.

THE collapse of Oscar Wilde's suit against the Marquis of Queensbury is a fresh disclosure, if any were needed, of the moral condition to which a large section of English society has sunk during the last twenty years. The prosecution's lawyers evidently were not put into possession of all the facts when they went into court, and the prosecutor himself cannot have been aware of the extent to which enemies were in control of what he calls his "literature." Either that or he has relied on the power of impudence to pull him through, and had lost all sense of the public disgust with indecency. Were he an isolated figure, the case would be unimportant. He is, in fact, a type of a large set of dabblers in aesthetics and dirt—champions of "art for art's sake," which generally is found to mean "filth for filth's sake." London has literary clubs for the publication of the great indecencies of literature, the Vilen Club being the most notorious. A vigorous trade in books unfit for woman's eye, or indeed for man's either, has been developed. The worst sinks of the Roman decline, the Renaissance and the eighteenth century have been ransacked for something to stimulate the jaded appetites of æsthetic and literary profligates. As a consequence there have been a series of social scandals which far surpass the ordinary improprieties of the divorce court.

America has not entirely escaped, as indeed we escape no English fashion in either art or letters. But our literature is, as yet, notably free from this taint of Gomorrah. All our noteworthy writers have something of the old Puritan spirit, and handle delicate topics after the fashion of our best masters. If only our Custom House were a little more active in exercising its authority to prevent importations of an objectionable kind, we would be fairly well off.

SINCE Waterloo, England has had more wars on her hands than all the other powers of Western Europe taken together. With just one exception, these have been attacks upon weaker peoples, upon whom she wishes to force her commerce, or whom she subdues in order to round off a frontier. The present war on the Chitralis is a specimen of the latter. They have offered no wrong to England. Until the repulse of the recent expedition against them, no white man ever entered their mountain territory, although their country had been thoroughly explored by a staff of Hindoo spies, as the forerunners of the invading army. The only plea for the attack upon them is that the possession of their country would give British India a more defensible frontier, and would even place it in a position to attack Turkestan in case of a great war with Russia. This last argument is just the folly which led the Disraeli government into the disastrous war with the Afghans. "The more numerous the untameable peoples between the two empires," the Liberals said, "the greater our safety from Russian attack. Do you propose to hang the grapes outside the garden wall?" The Liberals themselves are now repeating the folly they criticized. We do not see how the sympathies of mankind can fail to be on the side of the Chitralis.

THE INCOME TAX DECISION.

THE Supreme Court, as we anticipated, has not retracted its decision in the Tilden and other cases, to the effect that an income tax is not prohibited by the Constitution. The cases, however, which came before it were broader in their range than any it had passed upon, and the change in the constitution of the Court made possible a different attitude on the part of the bench. The decision, therefore, is not a simple affirmative of the constitutionality of the law. The Court, by a majority vote, decides that two forms of income may not be taxed in this fashion, while refusing to rule that the unconstitutionality of these clauses invalidates the whole law.

This decision has the effect of placing two forms of income in a highly favored position. As neither income from municipal nor State bonds nor that from real estate may be taxed, it might seem as though they would become the most desirable form of investment. As regards the former, however, the decision merely operates to raise their market value, which already was high enough, and to insure the municipal and State governments the lowest terms in the money market when they choose to borrow hereafter. The old dictum of the orthodox economists, "All things find their level," never was true in any connection. But it most nearly approaches the truth in the open money market. Whatever advantages the decision confers upon those who hold the exempted bonds, there really will be none for either those who subscribe to new loans or those who hereafter purchase parts of old ones. For this reason governments, in the long run, lose nothing by entirely exempting holders of public loans from taxation; and for the same reason a national taxation of the income from municipal and State loans amounts to a tax on the States themselves.

The holders of land and of houses are in a somewhat different category, and yet not so much advantaged as it would seem. Taxes on real estate are the principal source of State revenue, and the States may fairly be trusted to see that the owners of this

kind of property bear their full share of the public burden. For the same reason a tax on such property interferes with the taxation of the State by reducing the ability of its owners to contribute to the State's revenue. As the State always is short of revenue, while the nation usually has more than enough, the exemption of real estate from national taxation is not objectionable. Of course, it is only a limited part of the real estate whose owners would be required to pay an income tax. This of itself is a reason for its exemption, as it is in the interest of equality in bearing the public burden. That a rented farm should be doubly taxed because its owner had an income from other quarters, while the one next to it, although of equal or greater value, should be exempt, does not seem quite fair. It would work to prevent professional and business men from buying land, and yet it is to this very class that we owe many of the greatest improvements in agricultural methods.

The main principle of the law stands. Incomes from all other sources are declared liable to such a rate of taxation as the nation thinks fit to impose. This principle will be of even greater importance in the future than it is to-day. The time cannot be very remote when the country will have to choose between a tariff for revenue and an income tax as the main source of its fiscal income. We take it for granted that it now is going to return to the principle of protection, and that the revenue from protective duties will be our principal dependence for a considerable time. But with the growth and improvement of our manufactures, as in England during the first half of this century, the importation of goods which compete with our own must fall off heavily. The duties of the tariff, therefore, will become less and less productive of revenue; and, even if the present income tax should have been repealed in the meantime, it will be necessary either to impose a new tax of this kind or to levy revenue duties upon imported articles—tea, coffee, spices, etc.—which we ourselves do not produce.

The choice between the two methods of taxation will supply a new issue in national politics, and it is hardly doubtful what the decision will be. In a country governed by universal suffrage, as ours is, the people interested in opposing an income tax must always be fewer than those whose interest it is to prevent a tax upon imported staples. And in this case justice and numbers would be on the same side in preventing the enactment of such tariffs as those of England, Norway and some other free-trade countries. Such tariffs tax the poorer classes very heavily. They fall upon the people in proportion to their consumption of articles in universal use, and without reference either to services rendered by the government or the taxpayer's ability to pay. They are not the less harmful because their amount is wrapped up in the price of a commodity, instead of being frankly charged in a separate account. They tend to make the rich richer by exemption from their fair share of the public burdens, and to make the poor poorer by shifting those burdens upon them.

A revenue duty and a protective duty have a superficial resemblance, but in fact they are very different. The protective duty is imposed for the benefit of the producers of the country. It aims at the discouragement of the use of articles which our producers can furnish. In this respect it resembles the taxes on whisky, beer and tobacco. It also falls to some extent from the first—and, as home competition increases, chiefly—upon the foreign producer. A revenue duty tends to discourage the consumption of commodities whose use should be placed under no restriction. It takes from the workingman, without reference to his ability to pay, and gives him nothing in return. And its whole weight falls upon the consumer at home, since it fosters no home competition with any foreign producer.

In view of these undeniable facts, it is not likely that revenue duties are likely to be allowed to take the place of protective duties. And the place left vacant, when the latter cease to render a sufficient revenue, is more likely to be filled by an income tax than in any other way.

THE RISE IN GOLD AND ITS EFFECT ON SILVER-USING COUNTRIES.

ONE of the favorite arguments of the gold-monometallists is that the opening of our mints to the coinage of silver would drive us to silver-monometallism and reduce our people to the condition of those of Mexico, the Central and South American republics, of India and the other silver-using countries. Now, in the first place, the United States is quite strong enough to restore, unaided, silver to its place as money, and this need not be accompanied by even a temporary premium on gold and the withdrawal of that metal from circulation. By making silver a legal tender at the old ratio, and by opening the mints to the coinage of silver as well as of gold, the demand for silver would be so increased and the demand for gold would so fall off that the parity between the two metals would be at once restored and they would circulate side by side.

The opening of our mints to silver would therefore not drive us to silver-monometallism, and our people would therefore not be placed in the same position as those of Mexico and of the South American republics. But, passing over this ungrounded assumption, let us see whether the people of Mexico and India and Japan have become degraded under silver-monometallism, as the gold-monometallists claim. Let us examine the position of England (the home of gold-monometallism) under the gold basis, and the position of Mexico and the Orient under the silver basis. Let us see where prosperity has been greatest, where the advancement of the people has been most pronounced. In making comparisons between the people of England and those of Mexico, etc., it must be remembered that twenty years ago, before the fall of silver could have had any effect, the superiority of the English people was most marked; and that now, because we find the Mexican people still far behind the English, it does not follow that the placing of the former on the silver basis has had a degrading influence. It is the relative position of the silver-using and the gold-using peoples that we must consider, and if we find the distance that separates their comparative advancement has decreased in the last twenty years, that while the civilization of the silver-using countries is still far inferior to that of the English speaking races, yet if their present civilization approaches more nearly to that of the English speaking races of to-day than their civilization of twenty years ago did the English civilization of the same period, then there is no foundation to the claim that the progress of these nations has been retarded and their people degraded by the exclusive use of silver.

The facts are that while the trade and prosperity of Great Britain have been declining, the prosperity of her old silver customers has been increasing, and their ability to provide themselves with all their needs has grown at an ever-accelerated rate. This is especially noted in the last three years, when the decline in the price of silver, measured in gold, has been more marked than ever, being occasioned, of course, by the closing of the India mints and the repeal of the purchasing clause of the "Sherman act."

The result of the demonetization of silver has been a fall in price of nearly all commodities in gold-using countries (where they are measured in gold), and this fall has coincided with the fall of silver. As silver has been driven further and further into the background, prices have fallen further and further. But interest, rents and taxes have not fallen, in some instances even risen, and what is of still greater consequence, where the producer in gold countries comes into competition with the producer in a silver country the rate of wages, as far as the employer is concerned, has not materially fallen. It is very true that the gross income of the wage-earner has fallen quite in proportion to the fall in the price of commodities, but this is occasioned not so much by a reduced scale of wages as by enforced idleness.

In silver-using countries, on the contrary, prices have

remained approximately steady, wages have not fallen, and there has been a steadily increasing demand for labor, resulting in steady employment for all. Interest and rent have remained the same, except when due to foreigners and payable in gold, when they have doubled, and taxes have only increased when interest on large national debts has been due to foreigners.

The domestic transactions of silver countries have not been disturbed, but are carried on without loss or friction. The Mexican dollar, the Chinese tael or the Indian rupee have not changed in value; measured in them prices have not fallen; trade between silver-using countries has developed wonderfully, but between gold and silver-using countries it has declined to a very marked extent. At the same time the growth of manufactures and the development of the natural resources of the silver-using countries have been without parallel.

The rise in the value of gold acts as a protective tariff against all gold-using countries, but places no restrictions on trade with silver-using countries. The higher the premium on gold, the higher the protection, and, consequently, we see mills and factories erected in the silver-using countries, and we see them supplying themselves with the manufactured articles they have long imported. This self-made protective barrier grows out of the fact that the manufacturer in a silver-using country can get the same price for his products as heretofore, and his outlay for raw materials, for wages, for interest, has remained the same. The cost of production for him has not increased, but, in fact, fallen, as through experience he has been able to economize. The English manufacturer, working under the gold basis, must, on the other hand, sell his product at a much reduced rate, equal to the fall in silver, to meet the price of the manufacturer in the silver using country. He is able to buy his raw materials cheaper (measured in gold); but his rent, his interest on borrowed money, his taxes, his wages bill, have all remained the same. He must pay these in gold or its equivalent, and this same gold is worth double what it used to be. The disadvantage under which he works is apparent when we know that this same gold would enable the manufacturer in a silver-using country to buy twice the labor, pay twice the taxes, double the interest and double the rent that the manufacturer can pay with it in the gold-using countries, notably Great Britain. But let it not be thought for a moment that the wage-earner in England, receiving his pay in gold, is better off than his fellow-workman who receives his pay in silver. The English workman suffers from enforced idleness, while the workman in the silver-using countries finds no difficulty in obtaining work. The English workman exhausts his pay received, perhaps, at old rates, but for much reduced time, for his rent which has not fallen, and has not the means to obtain the necessities of life; the latter is prosperous and happy, and has no difficulty to make both ends meet. He receives in reality much higher wages than the Englishman, who is paid nominally much higher rates, because his time is occupied.

The silver-using countries have not fallen behind, but are advancing constantly with rapidly increasing strides. They are developing their own resources and extending their trade with one another. Comparison between the gold-using and the silver-using countries recoils greatly to the disadvantage of the gold-using countries, whose domestic industry is paralyzed and whose trade with the silver-using countries is drying up.

All these advantages belong to countries on the silver basis. How much greater would be the advantages accruing to our great country should we place silver side by side with gold, when we should add to the advantages the silver countries enjoy all those which would come in the train of the combined use of both metals!

It may be asked if the silver-using countries are so comparatively prosperous, why are they so anxious for the world-wide remonetization of silver? It is because they suffer grievously from the high premium which they must pay for gold when

they must export it to pay interest charges. India, Mexico and the South American republics are thus heavily handicapped and are all much embarrassed by a large foreign debt, both national and corporate and individual, payable in gold. This necessitates heavy taxes, heavy charges for transportation, and places the native manufacturers under the only serious disadvantage under which they labor. The silver-using countries can escape from these onerous charges only through monetary action that will cause a fall in the value of gold. Hence their wish for the general remonetization of silver.

The United States is also much embarrassed by the necessity of paying interest in gold on an immense foreign debt variously estimated at from \$3,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

SUICIDAL POLICY OF DEBTOR NATIONS.

IN a sequel to some excellent treatises on the injury done to the trade and manufactures of England by the divergence in the value of gold and silver, Sir Henry M. Meysey-Thompson, M.P., the noted British bimetallist, makes some remarks that are explanatory of the damaging policy pursued by the debtor governments of Europe—namely, the policy of gold-monometallism. Most of the gold-using countries of Europe are heavily in debt in their national capacity, both to their own citizens and to the creditor classes in England. Among these nations we find Austria, which has lately made such strenuous efforts to place herself on the gold basis, although by doing so she has increased her burdens. These debtor states owe large sums of money in the form of national debts, the interest on which is payable in gold. Every producer in these countries must lay aside every year a certain portion of what he produces in order to pay his share of the interest. How much of his produce he has to lay aside depends upon the price of gold—that is to say, whether it is plentiful and cheap, or scarce and dear. If plentiful and cheap, he has to give little produce; if scarce and dear, he has to give a great deal.

It is perfectly clear, therefore, that the burdens of the people would be lightened by an increased supply of gold or by a decreased demand, which would cause it to fall in value. Now, the true policy for these nations would have been to urge the re-establishment of silver as money, thus causing a decrease in the demand for gold and a consequent fall in price; but they have pursued the very opposite course, setting up the gold standard, thus creating a new market for gold and raising the price against themselves, making scarcer and dearer what was already scarce and dear enough.

Sir Meysey-Thompson explains the motives for this suicidal policy as follows:

"You will say, 'This was the work of madmen'; and so it would have been if it had been done by the people themselves. It was not, however, done by the people, but by the governments. The governments were in a difficult position. The interest on their debts had to be paid in gold. They received their revenue in silver or paper, and they had to pay every year more silver and more paper in order to buy the same amount in gold. What was to be done? Increase the taxes? No; increase of taxes breeds discontent. Discontent turns out governments, and self-preservation is the first law of nature. If a man had to pay ten florins or ten francs or ten thalers where he had paid eight before, he could not help knowing that his taxes were increased; but if he still continued to pay eight florins or eight francs or eight thalers on a gold basis, he thought he was paying the same amount, although his real loss, measured by the sacrifice of produce he had to make, was very likely much greater than the difference between eight and ten. Probably he had to sacrifice twelve pounds of wool or twelve quarters of wheat or twelve tons of iron or lead or tin where he had only to sacrifice eight before. But the fall in the price of produce was not ascribed to the government, though the burden of taxation, or in other words, the sacrifice of produce by the taxpayer, was really increased by 50 per cent.

"You may say gold is not scarce because there is a great deal in the Bank of England; and no doubt if you want to borrow somebody else's gold on good security you can borrow it very easily at a low rate of interest. But try and get some gold of your

own by selling a field or a house or a few quarters of wheat or some lead or tin or iron or some cotton or linen or jute goods, and you will soon find out whether gold is cheap and plentiful or not."

Speaking of the position taken by the creditor and money-lending classes in England, and showing that they lose as much from repudiation and readjustment of debts as they gain from the increased purchasing power of the money they receive in interest, Sir Meysey-Thompson says:

"To hear some people talk one is driven to the conclusion that their wish and aim for the future of the United Kingdom is that it should become as quickly as possible a country where no wheat is grown, no barley and no oats; where no sheep are shorn and no cattle fattened (I suppose they would keep a few cows to supply milk and a few hens to lay fresh eggs for the families of capitalists); where no cotton, no linen, worsteds or woollens would be manufactured; where all mines and all industries of iron and steel would be closed and idle—a country where no one could afford to live except individual lenders of money to other countries and their servants, everything they wanted in the way of commodities being sent them cheaper from abroad than it could be produced in this country, and sent not in return for exports, but in satisfaction of the interest on their debts."

TO A SWEET MAID.

MY dear, if I had eyes like you,
And cheeks so soft and white and clear,
And if such grace were mine, I knew,
I think that I should hold my beauty dear;
I think that I should give sweet thanks to God
For all the loveliness that was mine own,
And try to make each smile or glance or nod,
Each careless word, each lightsome, pleasant tone,
A power for good, to banish dreary pain,
And bring glad smiles to drooping lips again.

If I had arms so plump and white,
So dainty, dimpled and so good to see,
And form so round, so slenderly upright,
I know 'twould give great pleasure unto me,
And I should try to lift the heavy loads
And bear the burdens of the heart that go
So sadly trudging over life's sweet roads,
And dream of naught but misery and woe;
And I should strive to always be as gay
As though life's outlook viewed but cloudless day.

For in this pleasant, singing earth,
That laughs in answer to God's smile,
There's nothing gives such ceaseless, happy birth
To joy, nor has such power sad thoughts to while,
As the sweet sight of lovely womanhood,
The wondrous beauty which unconscious lies
Half hid, it may be, but all-thrilled for good,
'Neath the soft shadows of a maiden's eyes;
And when this charm is found ('tis yours, my dear),
It seems to bring God's love and heaven near.

New York Mercury.

WOMAN'S WAYS.

STATISTICS recently gathered by those interested in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., disclose the fact that there are over 3,000 women in that place who receive the munificent sum of \$2.50 per week apiece on which to live.

The innovation of a woman clerk in a drug store has almost ceased to be such, and is a growing custom. Needs as delicate and confidential as those which take a woman to the doctor's private office have often to be voiced in a drug store, and the woman customer is always glad at such times to have a woman clerk to whom to appeal.

Miss Frances E. Willard has started two new enterprises—one the raising of a fund to extend the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union among colored women, which she desires to be a memorial to Mrs. Mary T. Lathrop, the other a free literature fund, to be named for Mrs. Mary A. Woodbridge. The funds are to be raised by means of a phonograph at the Woman's Temple, Chicago, which, for the sum of 10 cents, will produce two-minute addresses of leading speakers.

She had been a widow a year or so, and she was dicker for a tombstone for the departed. "Of course," said the tombstone man, "you want the date of his death on the shaft—the day of the month and the year?" "Well," sighed the widow, "I suppose other people may like to read them—but I don't need such reminder: they are indelibly engraven on my heart and memory." "What was the date?" asked the tombstone man. The widow hesitated—then she turned a riotous scarlet—then she said: "Gracious goodness! I can't remember whether it was January 26th or 27th. I'll go home and find out."

Adelina Patti's recent visit to Windsor Castle was the first in twenty years. She was invited to give a recital to the Queen, who was charmed with her singing. Tosti's "Serenata," "Home, Sweet Home," "The Last Rose of Summer" and the prayer from "Tannhauser" were among the numbers on the programme. The Queen complimented her very highly, and gave her a butterfly diamond brooch and another pin with V. R. in precious stones. Patti signed her name in the Queen's birthday book directly under Paderewski's signature, and on her arrival home she found a large photograph of the Queen inscribed with "Victoria Regina."

Mrs. Foskett, in the *Methodist Recorder*, says that convent schools in and around London are largely patronized by Nonconformist middle-class parents for the sake, among other things, of the superior tuition they give in French and German. A lady Wesleyan who sends her daughters to such a school remarked that nearly half the school was made up of Wesleyan and Congregational girls. Mrs. Foskett is told that at another convent school, out of 250 to 300 scholars, more than half are Protestants. This school prescribes a dress for the scholars. Instances are given of daughters of Wesleyans who have become Roman Catholics at these schools.

The management of Kansas farms and ranches is not confined entirely to men, for there are some very shrewd and capable managers among the ladies. One of these is Miss Kittie D. La Master, of Gardner, Johnson County. Miss La Master goes to the Live Stock Exchange and attends to the financial part of the business.

"I have been engaged in farming," says the lady, "for the past six years, on account of the ill health of my father, who is incapacitated for work on account of rheumatism, which goes hard with him at his age, which is seventy-three years. When my mother and myself took charge of the farm of over 800 acres everyone predicted we would be failures, but we are very well satisfied with the results."

Of the other Kansas women who are patrons of the Kansas City live stock market may be mentioned Mrs. I. D. Harkleroad, Silverdale, Cowley County; Mrs. B. D. Freeman, Madison, Greenwood County; Mrs. Mary A. Dowling, Chapman, Dickinson County; Mrs. Mary Nurgessen, La Cygne, Linn County, and Mrs. John Stack, Rossville, Shawnee County. There are some ladies who manage large cattle ranches. Mrs. Lucien Scott, widow of Judge Lucien Scott, of Leavenworth, Kan., manages her ranch in the Pan Handle of Texas, which consists of 260,000 acres, all fenced, and on which there are between 6,000 and 7,000 cattle.

OPEN DOORS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE "BATTLE OF THE STANDARDS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: In the *Forum* for April there is an elaborate article entitled the "Battle of the Standards," written by Mr. Edward Atkinson, who, as an acknowledged statistical authority, is capable of formulating tables of figures upon any subject bearing upon the productive forces of nature or the mechanical arts, said tables being so constructed as to prove by logical methods the correctness of any theory which Mr. Atkinson and his followers (or leaders) may for the time being espouse.

The object of all such articles is to prove certain alleged facts or to disprove other alleged facts, and, of course, their value as proofs depends entirely on the correctness of their foundation statements of the real (not merely alleged) or actually existing facts.

Although the article is too long for reproduction here, the salient points may be brought out by a few quotations, as below.

He begins by stating:

"It is evident that the final contest on what shall be the standard or unit of value of this country is upon us; the pending question is whether it shall be the present lawful unit—a dollar made of gold—which is worth as much after it is melted as it purports to be worth in the coin—or whether it shall be of silver or paper forced into circulation by the fiat of an act of legal tender. The final issue is joined. The contest may be bitter, and in its course even another purely artificial panic accompanied by a paralysis of trade and industry may be brought upon us, corresponding to that of 1893. Any attack upon the credit of the United States tending to the debasement of the unit of value is dangerous. On the one part this attack has been made by the advocates of the free coinage of silver by this country at the ratio of 16 to 1 without regard to the action of any other country. That effort has been resisted as one of malignant fraud upon the community whatever may be the motives of its promoters, but that danger has been averted.

"A more plausible interference with the free choice of a standard or unit of value is made without malignant purpose by the advocates of what is called 'bimetallism.' Many of these advocates are gentlemen of high repute, of great sincerity of purpose and of position which entitles their arguments to candid and just consideration.

"The true point of this latter effort is obscured by the misuse of the word 'bimetallism.' Bimetallism exists in all commercial countries. Gold and silver are and will continue to be used for the manufacture of coins which serve as money. The real purpose of the advocates of what is called an international bimetallic treaty for the coinage of these metals at a fixed ratio is to bring the force or fiat of legal tender provisions into international commerce.

"In international commerce, which is free of the fiat of legal tender acts, good money by weight of gold has driven all other kinds out of use."

And he concludes his essay by formulating some inquiries and challenging reply.

Without assuming to competently meet his arguments or reply to his inquiries, but simply claiming "great sincerity of purpose," I seek from him or others of his school of thought a little more light, to the end that I may be able to judge for myself whether it is the *appreciation* of the gold or the *depreciation* of the silver "coin of our realm" which is to carry with it the curse of men.

"The advocates of what is called bimetallism who promote the negotiation of an international treaty of legal tender have been repeatedly challenged—1st. To name the rates of weight of silver to gold at which they propose to force the equivalent acceptance. 2d. To name a single article of any considerable importance on which the admitted decline in price cannot be accounted for by the application of science and invention to production and distribution. 3d. To show how the legal parity of the two metals at the treaty ratio is to be maintained if producers, merchants, exporters, importers and bankers individually choose to deal with each other on the unit of a given weight of gold whether coined or not. 4th. They are asked to state on what ground an act of legal tender can be justified which gives a debtor the power to force upon a creditor a kind of money which the creditor does not want, and has not agreed to take, while depriving the creditor of any choice in the matter. 5th. It may also be asked why there should not be an international agreement for the free coinage of an international coin made of gold and an international coin made of silver under new names, each distinct from the other, preferably adjusted by weight to the metric system. Would not such free coinage meet every just demand for bimetallism? 6th. What need has gold coin of any act of legal tender, national or international, to enforce its acceptance when of full weight and true to its name? This challenge is renewed. These questions have never been answered."

To question No. 1 I would answer: A ratio (16 to 1) which has been in use for generations, and which is as near the correct actual product of both metals as can be with proper restrictions upon the importation of silver from countries which discriminate against it.

To question No. 2 I would answer as follows: All ACTUAL WEALTH comes out of the earth, and by this I mean the land, the

water and the air of our globe. Subsequent increases of values are not increase of *actual wealth*, but merely increase in *local estimates*, and these largely dependent on "legislation." Life and physical health requires for its maintenance some *primary product* of the earth, and the VALUE of these products depends entirely on the environment of the producer and consumer and their actual requirements. Therefore, I would reply to Mr. Atkinson's second question by asking him or any of the class for whom he writes to "name a single article" of *prime necessity* to the maintenance of life in man on which the "admitted" fall in price can be accounted for only by the alleged "application of science or invention to production and distribution"?

To question No. 3 I would answer: No such parity can exist under the conditions named. But why suppose such impossible conditions rather than seek actual and already existing conditions? For instance, do not *producers, merchants and local bankers* now maintain by aid of "legislative fiat" (and in spite of the repeated charge of fraudulent and dishonest dollars, as made by Mr. Atkinson and his school of *patriots and economists*) such parity in our country, and do not the "exporter" and "importer" now and ALWAYS charge back to our "producers," "merchants" and "bankers" the actual difference between the "fiat" values of the two metals? Then wherein lies the danger of continuing our already well-tried "conditions"? The danger rather lies in these efforts to "compel" the adoption of a "theory" which will bring about the "contest" which "may be better" and which "in its course may produce even another purely artificial panic accompanied by a paralysis of trade and industry corresponding to that of 1893."

To question No. 4 I would answer upon exactly the same ground upon which an act of legal tender can be justified which gives a *creditor* the power to force a *debtor* to pay in a kind of money which has by "legislative fiat" been doubled in value when measured by the values of other primary products of the earth, while depriving the debtor of any choice in the matter.

To question No. 5 I would answer that international agreements of this kind are impossible until the value of man's labor, which is the source of increase in values upon the primary products, can by a similar agreement be equalized over all the world, and *this we all know is not possible.*

To question No. 6 I would answer: Deprive gold of its *present actual support* in both national and international acts of *legal tender*, or, in other words, permit silver to take its place, and the answer would reach even Mr. Atkinson's ears.

Mr. Atkinson's essay in the *Forum* is worthy the study of all who think on this subject, it being a wonderful example of the danger which invariably accompanies the assumption that "truth" can only be seen from one side or standpoint. The gold dollar has two sides just the same as the silver dollar or the copper cent, or an argument accompanied with figures from the pen of Mr. Edward Atkinson. It is one of the gratifying signs of the times that the advocates of gold-monometallism are becoming hysterical.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. LORIMER.

Philadelphia, April 8, 1895.

AMERICA NEEDS NO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO ESTABLISH HER FINANCIAL POLICY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN.

Dear Sir: Senator John P. Jones, in summing up his grand plea for bimetallism at the Brussels Conference, said:

"All the arguments advanced on behalf of the gold standard are built on prophecy, those on behalf of the double standard on achievement.

"The advocates of the gold standard rely on what they suppose may happen.

"Those of the double standard rely on the facts of history."

The facts and achievements he had amply elucidated in that

great address which the Belgian delegate so praised by saying immediately after its close: "Gentlemen, after the remarkable speech which you have just heard little remains to be said. * * * It is not only a monetary treatise, it is a study of social economy." Senator Jones' words may well be heeded by many very earnest, very honest friends of bimetallism, who halt and doubt and block the way to successful American action by their fears that we cannot succeed independently.

Some of them actually advocated the destructive policy of trying to force concurrent action upon foreign nations by creating sheer distress and making it so universal as to compel action. To such the idea of our being even temporarily placed upon a silver basis was to relegate our country to the social, economic and moral level of Mexico and China, as though the prosperity of a great people depended upon the color of the money they use. But they ignore the facts of history and of current events. Mexico to-day affords the most promising field for the investment of money among all nations, according to reports, and upon a pure silver basis.

France pursues serenely her course unaffected by panics, weighted down as she is by the greatest national debt and by her vast military and naval armament, and able to assist her powerful neighbor across the channel by a loan of gold to help avert a monetary panic imminent when the Barings failed. The panic-breeding system adopted by the United Kingdom has time and again exposed its weakness, while the strength of the French system is manifested, for it provides money instead of wind upon which the industry and commerce of that great people securely rests. France honors all her money and provides a sufficiency, and her funded debt is so wisely distributed as to become a basis of emergency credit among the common people.

No man can demand an exchange of one kind of money for another, for their idea of parity is unlike that of our thimble-rigging American financiers, who might wisely study the money question in its social and economic aspects, instead of by ways that are dark and tricks that are vain making its acquisition the sole object of their lives.

The recent history of our own country in the Civil war where the mightiest creative and destructive energies ever recorded were developed by a creation of the great instrument—money—in sufficient quantities to promote all the activities of a great people without gold and without silver, all appear to be forgotten.

In returning to specie payments, what kind of strange delusion was extended over the brains of such a people as to tolerate, for a single year after its discovery in 1875-6, the nature of the fraud of 1873?

With the knowledge of the mighty power of sovereignty exercised to maintain the union of the States, why should they doubt as to the power of that sovereignty to save and preserve as equally great as to subjugate and destroy?

Are the arts of peace of any less importance than the arts of war? Are the powers of our government greater for the conduct of war than for the conservation of the peace and prosperity of the people? Is political independence of foreign power more important than financial independence?

Our claim is that the United States can alone act, with greater credit, with greater success, than with concurrent action of other nations, and we have abundant evidence to justify this faith. The remarkable admissions of the *Statist* (London) recently, and those of the *Financial News* (London), a year ago, and of such able men as Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs and Mr. Morton Frewen, all go to sustain us in this view. But the facts of history prove it.

Why, were we to adopt the money of "ideal excellence," as Mr. W. P. St. John calls properly made national paper money, and properly guard its issue, and discard gold, the Republic would soon outstrip the world in its onward march, and international exchanges could be settled by our products enhanced in value and created in a volume sufficient to do it with our unused gold.

But the absurdity of being upon a specie basis with one-half of the specie dishonored necessitates a revision of the idea possessed by too many, that governments are ordained for the benefit of fundholders exclusively. We need a recurrence to the fundamental principle "that government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people," as enunciated by the fathers of the Republic. If it becomes a contest between the powerful few and the mass of the American people as to which shall control the destinies of this Republic, who can doubt the final result when American manhood asserts itself?

J. W. PORTER.

Charlottesville, Va., April 8, 1895.

OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.

CHARLES HEBER CLARK'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA—AT THE INVITATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HE DISCUSSES THE FINANCIAL QUESTION.

CHARLES HEBER CLARK, Secretary of the Manufacturers' Club, and Editor of the *Manufacturer*, in response to a cordial invitation signed by Lieutenant-Governor Lyon, Speaker Walton, Senator Penrose and others, addressed the members of the State Legislature, at Harrisburg, on Tuesday evening last, on the question of bimetallism. In substance, he spoke as follows:

The most startling phenomenon of our times is the persistent decline of the prices of commodities. This fall has been in operation for twenty years, and it has resulted in a shrinkage of values and a consequent extermination of wealth which cannot be contemplated by judicious men without alarm. Eighteen months ago wheat was worth 73 cents a bushel; in October last it was worth but 53 cents. Cotton was worth 8½ cents a pound; lately it sold for 6 cents. Silver was worth 82 cents an ounce; recently it could be bought for 62 cents. In 1873 the value of one acre's product of wheat, cotton, corn, oats and hay was \$15.65; in 1893 it was worth \$8.15—a decline of nearly 48 per cent.—and the decline was continued through this year. Pennsylvania produced 18,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1877, and the product sold for \$24,750,000.

Eighteen million bushels this year would bring but a trifle more than \$9,000,000—a loss of \$15,750,000 in one State on one crop. If American farm products had sold in 1893 for the prices of 1873, they would have brought \$1,500,000,000 more. Is it any wonder that our Western farmers, in despair, rush into the extravagances of Populism?

It is not claimed that the decline has been absolutely uninterrupted. The usual influences have put prices up and down, but over and above these influences some one great influence, operating generally and all over the world, has compelled the ultimate decline of values. Distinction must be made between fall of prices and fall of values. If a loom is invented which will weave three yards of cloth in the time and with the labor heretofore required to weave one yard, the price will go down but the world will be richer. If conditions be provided which compel a farmer to give three bushels of wheat in payment for a debt which could have been paid with one bushel when the debt was contracted, the world will be poorer. In the former case less effort produces more wealth. In the latter, more effort produces less wealth. Business can never thrive while prices continuously decline.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF DEBTS.

Moreover, the fall of prices means the enlargement of all fixed obligations. The whole world is in debt. In our own country, in 1890, the State, national, city and school debts amounted in round numbers to \$2,000,000,000, or \$30 per head of the population. The mortgage debt upon real estate reached the sum of \$6,000,000,000. Besides there are the railroad debt and the personal and other debts. These debts, in fact, are owned by the people, for the people have to pay for them. No man can say that he is out of debt. Each bond is an order for commodities produced by human toil. The debts are paid finally in the articles which men produce. Thus, as prices fall, more and more

of such articles must be given to meet the requirements of fixed obligations. Just how this has operated to increase the burdens of the people may be perceived upon examination of these figures, believed to be authentic:

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

Years.

1866—It was.....	\$2,000,000,000
Paid, principal, interest and premium....	4,350,000,000
1894—Balance due in dollars, about.....	900,000,000

Bales.

1866—Could have been paid in cotton.....	14,184,000
Paid, principal, interest, etc., in cotton.	94,690,000
1894—Balance due in cotton, at 5 cts.....	51,000,000

Bushels.

1866—Could have been paid in wheat.....	1,007,000,000
Paid, principal, interest, etc., in wheat..	5,022,000,000
1894—Balance due in wheat.....	2,054,000,000

Thus, after paying in cotton nearly seven times the original amount of the national debt, the American people still owe, in cotton, nearly four times the original debt; and in cotton, wheat, and similar materials this debt and all other debts are, as a matter of fact, paid.

WHAT CAUSES THIS SHRINKAGE OF VALUES?

It is of the first importance to ascertain what is the cause of this astonishing shrinkage of values. There is but one key to the riddle. It is found in the fact that gold is constantly advancing. No other completely satisfactory explanation of the problem can be supplied. It is a common mistake that the value of gold never changes, and because people hold fast to this error they fail to comprehend this question. Gold, like every other commodity, is influenced by the relation of supply to demand. Just now an artificially large demand is produced by the demonetization of silver. The fall of general prices began in 1873, when silver was formally deprived of the money function. Prices had been rising through a long period prior to 1873. As soon as silver was demonetized they started upon a downward course which they have ever since followed. This must necessarily have ensued upon the rejection of silver. For thousands of years the two metals have been employed together. In 1873 one was thrown aside and the whole stress of the demand for metallic money had been diminished one-half. Forbid the use of beef, and mutton will become dearer. Prohibit woollen clothing, and cotton will advance in price. When silver was denied its place among money metals, gold began to go up. This is an indisputable fact. The rise of gold might have been foreseen and it was predicted.

You have often heard the present standard silver dollar alluded to as a "50-cent dollar" and a "lightweight dollar." You may be surprised to learn that it contains just the same quantity of silver that the American standard dollar has always contained—no more, no less. The gold in the gold dollar has been twice changed; the silver in the silver dollar never. It is said that a gold dollar melted down will be worth its weight in coin, while the silver dollar melted down will be worth but 50 cents. Fifty cents in what? That shapeless mass of silver will buy just as much cotton, wool, wheat, petroleum and other things as it ever would. It holds precisely the same relation to the products of human toil as it ever held. It will not buy so much of one thing—it will not buy so much gold. Why? Because gold has gone up. Here is a proof of the fact that the change has been not in silver, but in gold. We have no 50-cent silver dollar, but we have a gold dollar worth about \$1.95. Demonetize gold, and silver will go up just as gold has done. The fault lies not with the metal, but with the acts of legislation which discriminate against one metal in favor of the other.

THE THEORY OF OVERPRODUCTION.

An attempt has been made to account for the fall of prices upon the theory that there is overproduction. It is unreasonable to ask us to believe that there has been overproduction all along the line for twenty years, and the fact that millions of men have not enough food or clothing is sufficient to demonstrate that the theory is absurd. Take wheat, for example. The belief is general that this country constantly expands its wheat-growing area. In truth, we have two million acres less in wheat in 1890 than we had in 1880. The wheat crops of the world are not excessive. They do not increase as fast as the requirements of the population demand. Here are the figures for ten years:

WHEAT CROP OF THE WORLD.

Years.

Bushels.

1884.....	2,060,077,697
1885.....	2,063,502,925
1886.....	2,193,997,000
1887.....	2,227,415,000
1888.....	2,212,843,000
1889.....	2,085,505,000
1890.....	2,170,123,000
1891.....	2,359,294,000
1892.....	2,392,727,000
1893.....	2,359,636,000

It is urged that Russia and India are pouring out wheat in extraordinary quantities. In truth, the exports of Russian wheat, this year and last year, were less than in 1890 and 1891. India began to export wheat only after 1873. She does so because her great annual tribute to England, like ours, is paid in commodities; and, as prices fall, a greater quantity of material is required to pay the same amount of debt.

It is said also that there is overproduction of silver. The Mint Report for 1894 shows that the world's stock of silver was but eighty odd millions larger than the world's stock of gold. Three-quarters of the people of the earth use silver alone. Those who use gold also use silver. Thus, the demand for silver exceeds the demand for gold, and yet the supply is little greater. The overproduction of silver is not a fact, but a delusion.

HOW SILVER WAS DEMONETIZED.

Why and how was silver demonetized? The purpose was to increase the debts of the people. This country, for example, is enormously in debt to England. England produces not enough wheat to feed her people, she grows no cotton for her mills, she has no silver mines. Would it not be a good thing for her to arrange that we should pay our great debt to her in wheat, cotton and silver, at half or one-third price? Where greed is apparent it is not worth while, in such cases, to look for any other motive. Gold-monometallism, like free trade, is a British invention; it is a device of the creditor for the injury of the debtor. Monometallism, as a device for oppressing debtors, is not a novelty. Holland and Germany both demonetized gold after the California gold deposits were discovered, because silver was more valuable. The East India Company forced India upon a silver basis for the same reason. How was silver demonetized? "Silently," says President Andrews, in his "History of the United States." The American people never voted upon the question. The deed was done in 1873, actually without the knowledge of many of the men who are alleged to have voted for it in Congress.

WHAT IS "HONEST" MONEY?

The gold dollar thus, by stealth, set up as the standard dollar, is continually alluded to as "honest" money; the implication being that the silver dollar is dishonest money. But is it honest money that grows more valuable day by day? Is it honest money that records a debt of ten bushels of wheat and compels payment of twenty bushels? Is it honest money that makes our national debt far larger, in terms of wheat or cotton, than it was originally, after more than half the debt, in terms of dollars, has been paid? The only honest money is stable money. As Right Hon. A. J. Balfour puts it, "Money should be a fair and permanent record of obligation over long periods of time." The money which does not change in value, in its relation to commodities, and that alone, is honest money. Melt down ten silver dollars, and the raw bullion will buy as much wheat or cotton or petroleum as it ever would. The relative values have not changed. Is not silver, indeed, really the honest money?

WHICH IS THE BEST MONEY?

The claim is also made for gold that it is the "best" money. Clearly, however, the best money is that which will give the most varied and effective service. It would be a great loss to the world to have gold no longer used as money; but the world could do without it. But finally withdraw silver, and the commerce of mankind would suffer paralysis. Not only is silver the sole money of three-fourths of the human race, but it is imperatively required by the gold-standard nations for the performance of small transactions, which make all the wholesale business and without which wholesale trade would shrivel up and disappear. It is not true, as often asserted, that 95 per cent. of exchanges are made by checks through the clearing houses. In fifteen States there are no clearing houses. It may be doubted if more than 10 per cent. of the American people keep bank accounts,

and of those who do every one must draw small money daily for his retail purchases. Dollars and sub-divisions of dollars are absolutely necessary to the smaller commerce, which is the source of all commerce. But, if it were true that checks are the most common instruments of exchange, why not check silver? Don't you see how the gold-monometallists, in arguing against silver because it is too heavy, destroy their own argument by claiming that checks do the work? Depend upon it that an abundance of actual money is a positive essential of prosperity. Money is a tool. If there are not enough tools for the workmen, some work will be left undone, some men will be compelled to remain idle.

It is asserted that creditors will be injured by a return to bimetallism because it will scale down debts. But the creditor is entitled only to the normal condition of things, and no man can claim that conditions are normal which have been produced by gold-monometallism, which the country knew nothing of until it was, by stealth, thrust upon us twenty years ago.

IS BIMETALLISM PRACTICABLE?

Can gold and silver, indeed, be kept together by legislative action? Is the double standard a practicable thing? The double standard is not, as some persons seem to think, two standards. The whole body of metallic currency together measures the value of other kinds of property. The average fluctuation of the value of two things is likely to be smaller than that of the value of one thing. Under the double standard a man has the option to pay in either gold or silver. If silver shall go up he will pay in gold. The demand being taken off of silver and falling upon gold, silver will come down, gold will go up and there will be a continuous tendency toward an equilibrium. Observe these figures:

WORLD'S PRODUCT OF GOLD AND SILVER.

Year.	Gold.	Silver.
1792-1848.....	\$ 800,000,000	\$1,600,000,000
1849-1862.....	1,450,000,000	574,000,000
1862-1873.....	1,300,000,000	660,000,000
1873-1892.....	1,200,000,000	1,600,000,000

In the first period twice as much silver as gold was produced. In the second period nearly three times as much gold as silver. In the third period twice as much gold as silver was produced. And yet, despite these variations and disproportions, the two metals remained practically at par under the double standard. In the last period only one-fourth more silver than gold was produced. Who can believe that, with the production of the two metals so little different, they could not have been maintained at par had silver been remonetized? The best and final answer to the assertion that the double standard will not work is that it was in successful operation when the demonetizing act of 1873 was passed. It was introduced into our system by Alexander Hamilton with the cordial approval of Thomas Jefferson. It was overturned apparently at the instigation of our British creditors.

CAN THE GOVERNMENT GIVE VALUE?

It is said that "the government cannot give value." If a law should be passed forbidding anyone to make a tin roof, the price of tin would fall. If a law should be passed forbidding anyone to use anything but tin, for roofing purposes, the price of tin would go up. When the government took from silver the money function, the most important of all its functions, silver declined. Restore that function to it by law, and silver will regain the value that it lost.

WILL GOLD BE DRIVEN OUT?

It has been declared that the result of an attempt to restore the coinage of silver will be to drive away our gold and to induce a flood of foreign silver to pour into this country. The fact is that we have more than doubled our stock of gold since we began to recoin silver. Here are the figures:

GOLD IN THE UNITED STATES.

January 1, 1879.....	\$278,000,000
July 1, 1893.....	598,000,000

Which nation has the largest stock of gold? Is it Germany, Great Britain or the United States, the gold-monometallic nations? No; it is France, which holds fast to bimetallism.

Thus France, the country which has the most silver, has also the most gold. What has been the effect upon the American stock of gold by repeal of the Silver Purchase law, which was said to drive out gold? We made a net loss of gold in the first nine months of 1894, after repeal of the law, just seven times greater than that made in the first nine months of 1893, when the Silver Purchase law was in operation. Under a system of bimetallism,

gold will flow into the country, because nobody will care to hoard it or to corner it if there shall be silver enough to do all the work that gold will do.

Are we likely to be flooded with foreign silver? Where will it come from? Europe has no silver but silver money which circulates at par with gold, as our silver dollar does. To send that money here would be to involve a loss of 3 per cent. plus the cost of transportation, for the European silver is coined upon a ratio of 15½ to 1, while ours is upon a ratio of 16 to 1. Not a dollar of European silver will ever come to this country under such conditions. But if the peril was indeed great, why should it not be averted by the simple expedient of placing a duty upon foreign silver?

Complaint is made that if we shall try to restore silver, and gold shall disappear, we cannot conduct our trade with Europe. If we should indeed go upon a silver basis, there would still be no difficulty in conducting commercial operations with gold standard countries. India and Mexico, silver countries, trade easily with England. We trade with nations having different kinds of money and different weights and measures.

But nobody desires that we shall part with gold. The bimetalist wants both gold and silver, and he is sure that he can retain both. If gold be necessary to trade with Europe, so is silver necessary that we may trade with Asia and Southern America. We face Asia on the West as we face Europe on the East, and we have in this hemisphere a string of silver-using nations reaching down from the Rio Grande to Terra del Fuego. And mark this: While there is hardly an article for which we are dependent upon the gold-using countries, we are dependent for multitudes of the necessities of life upon the silver-using nations. Shut us off from buying in Europe and still we should thrive. Shut us off from Asia and Southern America and incalculable injury would be done to the nation.

REMONETIZATION.

How shall silver be restored to its ancient place? That is not an easy question to answer. No man can declare with certainty what will be the result if we shall try free coinage without European co-operation. There are no precedents upon which we can lean. But if we must have European assistance why not command it instead of supplicating it? If we shall decide to remonetize silver why should we not also declare that a discriminating duty would be laid upon imports from any nation which refuses to lend a hand? If, however, the choice lie between waiting long for such help, and trying to perform that feat for ourselves, then the decision should be to suffer no longer, but to attempt the task single-handed. In any case, for this nation to be afraid to move for the restoration of its own prosperity until the government of Great Britain shall give permission, does not comport with the dignity and honor of the nation nor with the self-respect of its people.

We are disposed to believe that the perils which once menaced the Republic, the perils that are past, are the greatest that can menace it. But it is not so. The struggle for existence is perpetual with the nation as with the individual. The forces which tend to break down, disintegrate and destroy are as incessant in their activity as those that build up and maintain. Each generation has its own hard problems to solve and these problems come to it in unlooked-for shapes, from unexpected quarters. The generation that preceded ours had to deal with slavery. That was hideous and formidable, but it was visible, tangible, openly aggressive, plainly antagonistic to the principles of our institutions. At the last it came upon us in the full tumult of war. But the evil which now assails us is subtle, invisible, insidious, even mysterious. Men suffer and do not discern why. Like a hidden disease it assails the vitals and it will destroy us unless we conquer it. Shall we conquer it ourselves or suffer still more while we wait for help that may never come?

This is a question which you can help to answer and I trust that you will be impelled to send to this nation some message that the great Commonwealth that has always been in the very front as the champion of American protection as against British free trade, will still hold that place in the contest between British gold-monometallism and the bimetallism which was introduced to our political system by the great men who set up the pillars of the Republic.

Boston parties are negotiating for the sale of the Florence and Cripple Creek Railway. The price to be paid is said to be \$2,000,000. The line was built by Denver capital and cost over \$1,000,000, and is paid for, the owners claiming not to owe a dollar.

OUR LETTER FROM PARIS.

PARIS, March 30, 1895.

THE Italian press continues to be dithyrambic over the betrothal of the Duke of Aosta with a daughter of the late Count of Paris, and finds a responsive echo in the French organs of the throne and altar principle, of which the most authoritative apostle is a tame Jew, who began public life as a hawker of opera glasses on the Parisian boulevard. Under ordinary circumstances this princely ceremony might have passed unnoticed, or at most with a few discreet appreciations in the newspapers, like any other private family arrangement. But it has pleased its Royalist commentators to give to it the bearing of an important political event, and by so doing they have been imprudent. They began by lamentations over the opposition of hard-hearted parents to a love match and shed tears of sympathy with the trials of the youthful victims to parental obduracy; now they exult, weeping for joy at this "new gage of reconciliation between sister nations, consented to by the Emperors of Austria and Germany, to which the Pope has vouchsafed an approval." In short, "this projected union is one of those events which interest the equilibrium of all Europe, and of which the influence must be immense." Nothing of the kind is true, and, in a very near future, other events will probably show that this marriage, with the signification thus attributed to it, may increase rather than remove existing discords.

The servility of King Humbert to Francis Joseph and William II. is remarked by the French masses, who remember the \$40,000,000 exacted by the Orleans princes on their return from exile, at the very moment when France was most crippled by the disastrous war of 1870-71, and they wonder that those who pretend to the throne of France should court an alliance with one of the factors of that Triple Alliance which is, notoriously, constituted against their country. This marriage, then, is of no political moment, but it affords an opportunity of noting the inconsistency of the Orleanist doctrine in its relations with the Papacy. When Leo XIII. counseled the royalists to accept a republican *regime*, he was told that politics were not within the sphere of his attributes; when the question at issue was a union with the dynasty of Savoy, appeal was made to his gracious mediation. Perhaps this proceeding is not flattering to the Quirinals, in that it insinuates to them a suspicion of heresy, but it is none the less characteristic, not to say incoherent, and justifies the popular verdict that the political inheritance of the Orleans family is queerly administered. And in all this comedy of "Much Ado About Nothing," the French Government remains quiet and not dignified—with its present operators it cannot be dignified—but at the most simply watchful of the turn of the tide. One day last week its Premier astonished his most devoted partisans by his firm reply: "Law and order shall be made respected by all parties; no acts of revolutionary violence shall be tolerated!" This to M. Jaures, a most dangerous Socialist demagogue, who threatened dire reprisals of proletarian wrath. Within four and twenty hours the same Premier assured the same Jaures that he was with him heart and soul, and would be the champion of his social revindications. Vulgarly speaking, we here are in a mess, out of which the issue is not clear, and of which the only thing that is clear is the triumph of extreme Radicalism, which, after obtaining any number of concessions from M. Ribot, will turn him out of doors, as it has already evicted several of his predecessors who were so imprudent as to accept its co-operation.

Pray, notice that parliamentary and ministerial squabbles, in France, have naught whatever to do with her foreign relations. For a certain class of French politicians—those who are, at present, either *in* or *coming into* office—foreign relations are without interest, and so it is that none of them and none of their organs pay the slightest attention to what happens beyond the limits of Gallia, when there are significant indications of serious

evolutions in international policy. True, M. Herbette is about to be withdrawn from Berlin, where, as I stated in a preceding letter was probable, he had compromised his government by an inconsiderate and unauthorized acceptance of the invitation to Kiel; yet no one among French politicians seems to take heed of the possible significance of recent diplomatic movements made by Russia and Germany. There was nothing abnormal in the removal of two successive Russian Ambassadors to Berlin: Count Schouvaloff to the Governor-Generalship of Poland, Prince Lobanow to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These functionaries were simply promoted from posts of confidence abroad to other posts of confidence within the limits of the Empire. But why General Werder has fallen into disgrace is incomprehensible. Since 1892 he has been the German Ambassador to St. Petersburg, where, during twenty years previous, he had been attached to the person of the Czar, with whom he was a *persona gratissima*; it was thanks to his influence and tact that the Russo-German Commercial treaty was negotiated, and that there was no open rupture between Germany and Russia. After the unmasking of Bismarck's treachery by Alexander III., and the motives of this unmerited and unexpected measure of rigor against an old and faithful servant are a conundrum, interpreted in Russian political circles is indicative of some new departure of German foreign policy in an anti-Russian direction. Possibly such is the case, but it would be rash to make any prediction on this point, which can only be made clear when the name of the General's successor shall be officially known. Pessimists aver that Count Herbert von Bismarck is that chosen vessel; this is scarcely credible. The Count, even more than his father—at present—is notorious for his Russophobia, and his nomination to St. Petersburg would probably be refused there, which refusal might lead to a suspension of diplomatic relations between the two empires and to complications not at all desirable in the actual situation of the Continent.

At the outset of his reign, William II. was depicted as a crack-brained, headstrong youth, acting solely on the impulse of the moment, without fixity of purpose. Since then he has proved the contrary; he has shown himself at least the equal of the cleverest of European statesmen grown gray in diplomatic harness.

The young sovereign's one objection is German hegemony, and the coming celebrations at Kiel are simple indications of his platform, which will be fully developed according to his own personal judgment of the opportuneness of action. To his subjects he can say: Behold! not even my bitterest enemies, neither France nor Russia nor Denmark, venture to refuse to send their fleets to manœuvre under the orders of your Kaiser! To those enemies he can show the formidable preparations of offense and defense of which he can dispose should they elect to thwart his projects. Nothing will be neglected to prove the strength of Germany's military power, of which he estimates her navy to be a most important factor, destined to play a leading part in the next martial drama. But Kiel will not only be the theatre of a grand nautical parade; scarcely will the European squadrons have passed in review before his Majesty, when the troops, coming from every province of the Empire, will commence their manœuvres in the environs—manœuvres of which the theme comprises the utilization of the canal and the combined action of the land and naval forces with the Russian seaboard as objective. The strategical importance of these operations is incontestable, but there is matter for serious reflection in the circumstance that the rehearsal of the next war is general among the parties to the Triple Alliance.

On the Baltic front the aim is Russia, and her press has already begun to reclaim an increase of her fleet and additional protection to Kronstadt against a German expedition. So much for the northern line.

On the shores of the Mediterranean Italy prepares a similar combination of land and sea manœuvres servilely copied from those of her powerful ally. These demonstrations are significant

of Italian intentions, and though puerile, they may possibly attract the attention of the French Government, and show at least what may be expected.

Austria, the third factor of the *triplice*, alone abstains from combined manœuvres, and this is readily explicable. Such manœuvres could only have, for base, Trieste, and for objective, Italy, and are, therefore, not only unnecessary, but inexpedient, not to say impolitic, Italy being at present Austria's nominal ally. But, to leave no doubt as to ulterior intentions, the Austrians will evolve along the Vistula with the hypothesis of a German co-operation on their left flank, a real co-operation, in point of fact, as the Germans will manœuvre simultaneously in the north-western zone, between the fortress of Thorn—siege operations—and Kiel, the proposed theatre of the principal military movements.

In short, Europe is about to assist at a general public rehearsal of the next campaign and the thesis imposed by the German staff defines most clearly the genuinely belligerent character of the *triplice* and the absolute subordination of all its forces to the sole command of the German Emperor.

Very little note of these indications is taken by the French press, which lavishes indignant commentaries upon "the contempt of constitutionality manifested by this autocrat," who presumed to condole with Bismarck, when the *Reichstag* refused its congratulations to that old gentleman. William hates Bismarck, but, needing the support of his party for the adoption of certain anti-Socialist measures, it suits him to exhibit sympathy. This is about the long and short of the matter and, having no possible bearing on international questions, only regards the Germans who propose to "*manifest spontaneously*" their admiration for the statesman "to whose valued aid our Fatherland owes its regeneration." It is pertinent to note that in Silesia, at Jauer, at Striegau, at Schweidnitz, all the workmen and purveyors whose existence depends upon the patronage of the Agrarian League—the great landowners—are notified that if they do not contribute to this testimonial of "*spontaneity*" they will be discharged as revolutionists. Naturally they give their mite, but the Berliners, who detest Bismarck, qualify the "*spontaneous manifestation*" which will fill the columns of the German press, on the 1st of April: "the national April-fool," *poisson d'Avril*, in French parlance. But for all that, William II. will attain his end, even if obliged to dissolve the *Reichstag*.

Z.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

ONLY TRYING TO BEGIN.

Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

Some of the Eastern organs are entering upon a dangerous experiment. They are beginning to discuss the silver question.

**

AN UNKIND SUGGESTION.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The Delaware Legislature also has a bill for the taxation of bachelors. It would serve that State better to tax all who engage in long Senatorial contests.

**

A SQUARE DIVVY ALL ROUND.

Philadelphia Press.

The code of "business ethics" which is said to control the various electric light monopolies is probably summed up in a square divvy and all favored.

**

HUMPH! SIX, EH?

Nashua (N. H.) Telegraph.

It is predicted that six political parties will participate in the Presidential canvass of 1896, as follows: Republican, Democratic, Prohibition, Populist, Free Silver and A. P. A.

A POINTER FOR GRESHAM.

Manchester (N. H.) Union.

A Spanish gunboat now having fired upon, stopped and searched a British steamer near Cuba, it will be interesting to note the proceedings that Kimberley will take to obtain satisfaction.

**

REPUBLICANS AS RELIABLE REFORMERS.

Doylestown (Pa.) Intelligencer.

Reform is in progress in New York and is impending in Chicago. The people found reform was a necessity, and resorted to the Republican party as the only competent and reliable agency to get it. Right, in both cases, and the future may be confidently looked to to vindicate the opinion and action.

**

A BLOW WITH HEFT IN IT.

New York Sun.

There is a genius in this town who was recently called upon to find an appropriate name for a small and active tugboat.

The peculiarity of the problem consisted in the fact that the preordained public function of this tugboat was to pull, pilot, convoy, and generally superintend certain flat, unwieldy, inert craft of the sort known as dumping scows; tugs which make no headway if left to themselves, and which carry a cargo of worthlessness, but kick up considerable fuss in going through the water.

The genius promptly named the tugboat the "Daniel S. Lamont."

**

GLADSTONE AGAIN IN THE SADDLE.

London World.

Mr. Gladstone may pretty certainly be reckoned upon as an active political force in what remains of the present session, and probably in the general election which will follow it. He is said to have expressed his conviction that the real feeling of the country is in favor of the policy of the present Cabinet, and he is not likely to lose any opportunity of making it favorable. If, a year ago, his health had been what it is now, he would certainly be at this moment Prime Minister of England. In one form or another, the Unionist party may make up their minds to the fact that they will have to reckon with him in the House of Commons and at the polling booths.

**

THE FARMER'S OBJECT-LESSON.

Birmingham (Ala.) Daily State.

A good, honest farmer was standing in front of the courthouse, yesterday, looking mournfully at his tax receipt. He said: "I brought a bale of cotton here five years ago, sold it for \$49.50. With this money I paid my taxes, \$22; got a dress for my wife, \$5; shoes for the children, \$6; a barrel of flour, \$6.50; fifty pounds of sugar, \$4; ten pounds of coffee, \$2, and went home happy with \$3.75 in my pocket for the preacher. I brought in a bale to-day, sold it for \$22.50; paid my taxes, \$22.25, and have a quarter left. They tell me I can get flour and frocks and sugar and shoes for half I paid then, but it 'pears to me I haint got the half. I've about made up my mind to invest this quarter in United States bonds and howl for the gold standard."

**

WILL SWEEP THE COUNTRY.

Kalamazoo (Mich.) News.

The Republican League Convention to be held at Cleveland, O., June 19th, 20th and 21st, will be notable in its *personnel* and the measures it will outline as the Republican rallying cry for '96. Two train loads of silver men, representing the great mining interests of the West and Messrs. McKinley, Harrison, Burrows, Allison, Reed and other distinguished Republican leaders will attend the convention. There will be 2,500 delegates and 1,000 visitors in attendance. The Denver Convention of last year gave great encouragement to the true bimetalists—those who favor the perfect equality of gold and silver as primary money—and nothing has occurred since to lessen the hope that the league will take a higher and broader ground at the Cleveland meeting for the rehabilitation of silver. If protection, reciprocity and free coinage of silver shall be evolved from that convention's inner consciousness as the watchwords of the next campaign the Republican party will sweep the country in '96 with a majority greater than it has ever had before.

SPECIMEN BRICKS.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS STRONGLY COMMENDATORY OF "THE AMERICAN" AND ITS GOOD WORK.

A SINCERE CONVERT.

You may consider me a convert to your views on the silver question.
REV. STEWART GRAY, Peoria, Ill.

**

FULL OF VALUABLE MATTER.

THE AMERICAN is full of valuable matter and offered on reasonable terms.
REV. J. A. ROSSEEL, Towanda, Pa.

**

"IT IS WELL EDITED."

THE AMERICAN is well edited and I am heartily in sympathy with its teachings as to bimetallism.

REV. ALEX. KENT, Washington, D. C.

**

"GLADLY ENCOURAGE IT."

I can hardly confess myself, as yet, in sympathy with its principles, but I gladly encourage a journal of such character.

REV. A. S. WOODLE, Altoona, Pa.

**

"THE PEOPLE WILL RESPOND."

I appreciate its excellence, thank you for its contents of information, etc., and feel assured that the people will respond to such truths and appeals.

REV. A. S. REID, Fulton, Wis.

**

OF OUR WAY OF THINKING.

THE AMERICAN has been read by me with much satisfaction, as I am quite of your way of thinking on the silver question.

H. GARDES, American Nat'l Bank, New Orleans, La.

**

"A PLEASURE TO READ IT."

You have an able paper, whose vigorous and lucid English it is a pleasure to read, although I do not agree with your major position. However, such temperate discussion of this important subject is needed.

REV. J. S. COLTON, Biddeford, Me.

**

"ONE OF THE BEST."

I am pleased with THE AMERICAN; think it a very able paper, and wish the Republican party could be trusted to stand upon the platform which THE AMERICAN sets forth in its issue of March 30, 1895. I regard it as one of the best, if not the very best, political paper now issued from the press.

REV. JOSEPH H. TOWNE, Andover, Mass.

**

A STRONG ENDORSEMENT.

It is very pleasant to have THE AMERICAN again after its long suspension, and to recognize in it the same fineness of taste and sureness of touch which made it so acceptable. As a high-class literary weekly and an advocate of a sound financial system, it should be received with generous appreciation.

CYRUS ELDER, Johnstown, Pa.

**

"WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE."

The bold, aggressive and patriotic stand which THE AMERICAN occupies in national affairs greatly pleases me and my neighbors. We are "Constitutional Democrats" down here, but accept only the Jeffersonian interpretation of the Constitution. We want the Federal Government to give back to us our Constitutional money—the "twin sisters," gold and silver—and we insist that there shall be no discrimination. This done, and with reasonable economy in the administration of national affairs, we feel that then by industry and economy, both by the citizen and the State, we shall soon again be a prosperous people.

THE AMERICAN will benefit all into whose hands it falls.

GEN'L THOS. L. ROSSER, Charlottesville, Va.

"BOUND TO PREVAIL."

Let me say, frankly, that the strength of the paper impresses me favorably. The color of its politics, in some respects, is distasteful to an overpowered but unconquered secessionist, as are all Northern publications, especially the religious ones. The smell of the negro is over them all. We are obliged to pass over that stuff so necessary to the universal Yankee mind and attend to what is really excellent. For originality, perspicuity, directness and force, THE AMERICAN far excels any publication of its kind that has reached me. You stir in lots of brains with your ink, and that delights me. Your views on finance are correct, and are bound to prevail in the end.

J. L. LODGE, D.D., Gaithersburg, Md.

AMONG THE PREACHERS.

REV. T. B. NEELY, D.D., LL.D., reports that during his extensive travels in foreign lands the longest sermon he heard was forty-two minutes.

**

The confessional has been introduced in St. Matthew's Church (Episcopal) in Detroit. The minister recently declared that the priest of his church had just as much power to absolve sinners as he had to consecrate the bread and wine of the Eucharist, Christ's body and blood.

**

The recent revival of the old religions of India among educated men is based on the idea that their sacred books are pure, even when brought to the test of the Christian standard. Yet the "Vagur Vega," one of the sacred books, is so bad that it has been declared by the highest legal authority in Bombay to be a criminal offense to translate it into any living language in India; and a translator and publisher in the Punjab were fined for publishing a translation in Punjabi.

**

The *Methodist Recorder* publishes an interesting account of the opening of a Wesleyan Methodist church at Butterworth, Transke, Cape Colony, Africa. The striking feature of the occasion was the collection, which went on for several hours; the natives, chiefs and farmers giving gold, silver, horses, cattle and sheep until the whole aggregated \$5,250, and the people went to their homes with their church entirely paid for. There were many speeches made, not by ministers, but by the people themselves, each donor generally prefacing his gift with a speech.

**

In 1854 Pat Monogue appeared at the mines at Moore's Flat, Cal., and for three years was a miner, in no respect distinguished from the other miners except that he was more moral and conscientious than most of them. He saved money and went to Paris, to the Seminary of St. Sulpice. He came back a priest, and was assigned to Virginia City, which was then a roaring camp. The principal street was a line of saloons, gambling houses and worse. While he did not make everybody a saint, he showed himself to be a man of heroic and saintly mould, and it would have gone hard with anyone who harmed him. Then he was made Bishop of Sacramento, and when he died the other day many a gutter loafer in Virginia City who used to know him shed tears for the first time in years. Few stories would surpass in interest one which might be written with the title, "How Pat Monogue Won a Miter."

**

The Rev. Samuel Weil, of Bradford, Pa., whose book, "The Religion of the Future," has attracted considerable attention, has been instrumental in organizing a new religious society, with the following platform: "First—The society shall be called 'The Free Religious Association of Bradford.' Second—The purposes of the association shall be the advocacy of a rational religion without a priesthood; a moral code without a theology; a God without a dogmatic system; a religion of liberty, recognizing no limits to thought; a religion of conscience, seeking the approval of no other monitor; a religion of reason, submitting all things to its decision; a religion of action, holding the chief good to be 'man's humanity to man;' a religion of equality, acknowledging in its most comprehensive sense human brotherhood; a religion of love, yielding obedience to it as the great fundamental law of moral agency. Third—The association will be governed by the will of the majority of its members."

SOCIOLOGICAL SUBJECTS.

A LOVING, sympathetic nature is like the sunshine, which brightens all it touches. Without charity we can do little.

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George T. Angell, President of the American Humane Society: I hold that every city and town should be prepared at all times to furnish temporary work at low wages to those who are not able to obtain better work elsewhere, because men must live, and *it is better they should live by earning than by begging or stealing*. Say nothing of the humanitarian aspects of the case, *it is cheaper to provide even unprofitable labor than to build and sustain prisons and almshouses*.

In many of our cities and towns public improvements are needed, and this labor could be made profitable. Wherever work is provided tramps and able-bodied beggars can be immediately employed, and will have no excuse for begging. But how shall we provide permanent work for our unemployed able-bodied men?

I answer: That there is but one way under the existing state of things in which this can be done. They must go onto and till soil. No trade is so easily learned as that of a farmer. To plough and plant and hoe and sow and gather are things not difficult to understand. Put 10,000 people, the number of the Brooklyn strikers, on fertile lands, give them domestic animals, implements, seeds and provisions, and they will live and have plenty of work.

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Dr. J. M. French, in the *Popular Science Monthly*: Among the Massachusetts centenarians, one in eleven of the women have never been married, while among the men the corresponding proportion was only one in twenty-three. Further than this, while there were three times as many women as men among the centenarians as a whole, there were six times as many among the unmarried ones. It would seem to be a fair inference that the effect of celibacy is less fatal to longevity among women than men.

Nor is this other than might be expected, when we consider how helpless and dependent is an old man, and how unable to care for himself in the little niceties of life which contribute so largely to health and comfort, and how much less so in all these respects is an old woman. * * * But it would be a manifest error to conclude that, because the average age of the married exceeds that of the unmarried, therefore this excess of longevity is due to the married state, unless it can first be shown that the individuals composing the two classes were originally in the enjoyment of the same degree of health and soundness of constitution; whereas, it is an indisputable fact that those persons entering the married state are, as a whole, more robust and enduring, and hence have a greater natural expectation of life than those who remain single; and it is also evident that repeated marriages, and especially marriages late in life, are indications of a greater than usual degree of vigor and vitality. They are, therefore, in the nature of an effect, rather than a cause, of extreme longevity.

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While in Odessa last summer, Rabbi Joseph Krauskopf, D.D., of Philadelphia, Pa., inspected, what is called a Model Farm, now in the third year of its existence, covering a hundred acres of land, equipped with all the necessary houses and barns, and shops, and live stock, and implements and classrooms, on which graduates of the Orphan Asylum are practically and technically taught the trade and science of farming, stock-raising, dairying and gardening.

The sight of the two scores of Jewish youths and lasses at work upon the fields and in the farm shops, and in the dairy, and the excellence of their work and the usefulness of their calling, have so impressed him that he has determined to found a similar institution in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, for the purpose of training graduates of orphan institutions, and other capable boys and girls, regardless of race or creed, into skillful farmers. Taught such a noble calling, he believes a bright future will be open to them. They will likewise be excellently fitted to serve as superintendents of agricultural colonies, which are destined soon to be founded on a large scale in America.

To help to raise the necessary means, the doctor devotes all his perquisites and lecture fees to the Model Farm Fund.

A competent board of experienced agricultural and financial men will manage the farm.

A competent faculty will preside over it. The Model Farm will be supported and brought into successful operation by voluntary contributions.

Wanamaker's

HOUSEKEEPING LINENS

Every linen corner of the world is ransacked to be sure you've a better linen store here than can be found anywhere else. It's been that for this long time—but it's more to-day, for it's better than our past best. The linen makers and we are always learning.

700 dozen 24-inch fine quality Irish Damask Dinner Napkins in a range of choice new designs. They'd be cheap at \$3; these go at \$2.25 a dozen. 100 dozen 22-inch finest quality Scotch Double Satin Damask Napkins, the regular \$5 quality at \$3. Same quality, dinner size, 26-inch, \$7.50 kind at \$5 a dozen.

A small lot of finest quality Scotch Double Satin Damask Table Cloths—a stock taken from the maker at a big discount. We share with you: 2x2½ yard cloth, \$6.25 kind at \$4; 2x3 yard cloth, \$7.50 kind at \$5; 28-inch Napkins to match, \$10 kind at \$7.50. Extra Heavy Double Damask Table Linen, in choice patterns, \$1.25 kind at \$1 a yard; Napkins to match, \$2.50 a dozen.

Fine quality Irish Huckaback Towels, finest yarns, beautifully made, 22c kind at 15c.

Irish Huckaback Towels, strong and heavy, 20x42 inches, 12½c each, \$1.50 a dozen.

Extra heavy pure linen glass Toweling, 10c a yard.

Southwest of center.

BABY CARRIAGES

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The Moorish and English rooms are eloquent of the possibilities for dainty Summer draperies and home decorations. The English room is a series of studies in china-blue and white.

Drapery stuffs are shown all around. Not all expensive either. Here is a case of Crepes, 8 colorings; pretty for curtains and pillow covers. 12½c a yard, though fairly worth 18c.

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Blossoms, sprays, bits of vines, daintily printed on cream and other light-colored grounds. Twice prettier than you'd guess; half-wool; all new this season. 18c goods at 12½c. A trifle added for ribbons and you've a pretty dress for a song.

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BY

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ELECTRICAL ELEMENTS.

ELECTRICITY is now used to improve the complexion.

The Nebraska Telephone Company has cut rates 50 per cent. in South Omaha.

Versailles, Ky., has decided to build and operate its own electric light plant.

The citizens of Green Island, N. Y., will bond their village for \$20,000 for a new electric light plant.

Pittsburgh is to have a new local telephone company and, of course, will have the benefit of cut rates.

Canton, Pa., has granted franchises to the Harrison Telephone Company on the condition that it will "cut rates one half."

New Castle, Pa., has a new telephone company which is making lots of contracts at half the rate charged by the old company.

The citizens of Lake City, Minn., are to vote on the proposed bonding of the city for the money required to pay for an electric light plant.

Pawnee City, Neb., has bought the plant of its electric light company and will operate it in connection with the water works system owned by that city.

It is reported that the Fremont, Neb., Gas and Electric Light Company is endeavoring by legal steps to prevent the city of Fremont from letting contracts for the construction of a municipal electric light plant.

Philadelphia's incorruptible City Councils, at their final session, knocked out the Central and Drawbaugh Telephone ordinances, which proposed to give that ring-ridden city cheaper and better telephone service.

The telephone war at Niles, O., has caused a fall in rates from \$50 to \$18 per year. Will the Philadelphia Trades League directors make a memorandum of that fact and use it for the benefit of the members of the League?

Cassier's Magazine says that the smallest generator of electrical or mechanical energy in the world is a battery constructed by one of the electricians of the Boston Telephone Company, consisting of an ordinary glass bead, through which two wires, one of copper, and the other of iron, are looped and twisted so as to prevent their coming in contact. The wires act as electrodes, and a drop of acidulated water in the bead causes a current to flow. It has been used in signaling to a distance of nearly two hundred miles."

NUGGETS AND NUBBINS.

"YOUR beautiful clock was received," wrote a bride, in a letter of thanks, "and is now on the mantelpiece in the drawing-room, where we hope to see you often."

'Rastus—Yo' brack niggah, whoffo' did yo' say I wuz a-lyin' at Miss Lubly's darnce lars ebenin?

Sam—Yo'se mistaken, sah; I sed yo' wuz a lion, sah, a social lion.

Rector (acting as cicerone)—So, madame, you have now seen the organ, the font, and the nave. I should next like to conduct you to the altar.

Lady—Oh, this is so sudden!

Daily—They say the art of chasing silver is a very difficult one.

Borrowit—I know it is. I've been trying all the day to find a man who would lend me half a dollar.

Caller—You must be terribly bored by office-seekers these days?

Mayor Warwicks—The real bores are the fellows who drop in to assure you that they don't want anything.

A little girl who had been taken to church cast her eyes, for the first time, on a group of choir boys in surplices, and very much disturbed the equanimity of her mother by inquiring, "Are they going to get their hair cut?"

A new candidate for a job with the Oshkosh Fire Department wrote: "Hereby I put in my application for a job in the Fire Department. I can run, jump or clime like a cat and have no fear and stand smoke like a ham."—*Oshkosh Herald*.

"Susan," said Farmer Punkin, of Kansas, "ye'll have to take the lid off 'n them two jack rabbits er they'll bile too much."

"I'm most skeart to," answered his wife.

"There ain't nothin' to be skeared of."

"I don't know 'bout that. The Legislature's made that anti-gamblin' law so strict thet they'll have the police down on us ef they know we was openin' a pot with a pair of jacks."

Agents Make \$5 a day selling our goods. Sell to every business house. 200 per cent. profit. 50c. starts you. Particulars and Sample 15c. CH. H. ODELL, Bradford, Pa.

We have received a sample bottle of Odell's Chemical Ink Eraser. It thoroughly erases blots or writing without destroying surface of the paper, so that errors may be corrected. Agents make 200 per cent. profit. Sample 15c. Odell Chemical Ink Eraser Co., Bradford, Pa.

Men's Shirts

Our reputation—fairly earned—for perfectly made, faultlessly fitting Shirts is not confined to this city alone, as the constant receipt of orders from all parts of the country amply attests. Our famous grades of White Shirts are: "The Wonder," at 50 cents; "The Favorite," at 75 cents; "The Standard," at \$1.00, and "The Custom-Made," at \$1.25. All most carefully made in our own workrooms. The Custom Department executes orders promptly and in the highest style of the art.

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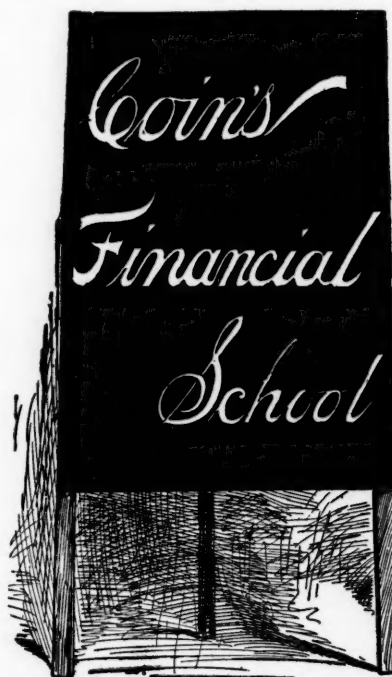
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